

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 12497 190246Z

63

ACTION EPA-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 OES-06 /020 W

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P 190217Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1685

UNCLAS TOKYO 12497

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, JA

SUBJECT: SUBSTITUTES FOR PCBS

REF: STATE 203389

1. EMBASSY CONTACTED ENVIRONMENT AGENCY, MITI (MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY), JAPAN ELECTRICAL MACHINERY INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (JEMIA), ELECTRONIC MACHINERY INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (MEMIA), AND KUREHA CHEMICAL INDUSTRY CO. LTD., CONCERNING MATERIALS PRESENTLY BEING USED AS DIELECTRIC FLUIDS IN CAPACITORS.

2. OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS, EA IS UTTERLY UNINFORMED ON SUBJECT MATTER. MITI, JEMIA AND EMIA ARE UNANIMOUS IN SAYING THAT JAPANESE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS ARE STILL SEARCHING FOR MATERIALS WHICH ARE COMPETITIVE WITH PCBS IN COST AND EFFECTIVENESS WHEN USED AS DIELECTRIC FLUIDS IN CAPACITORS.

3. SUBSTITUTES CURRENTLY IN USE INCLUDE "INSULATING OIL NO.1" ON JIS (JAPANESE INDUSTRIAL STANDARD) LIST, A MINERAL OIL WHICH COSTS ABOUT 100 YEN PER KG. IN MANY CASES, THE OIL IS FURTHER REFINED BY EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS BEFORE USE IN CAPACITORS.

4. OTHER MATERIALS INCLUDE AROMATIC HYDROCARBONS (MANUFACTURED BY KUREHA) AND SILICONE OIL, BUT THESE ARE NOT COMPETITIVE WITH MINERAL OIL IN TERMS OF COST. SILICONE OIL COSTS ABOUT 1,000 YEN PER KG. KUREHA'S PRODUCTS COME IN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TOKYO 12497 190246Z

TWO BRANDS: KIS AND KSK. THEY COST 160 YEN AND 250 YEN

PER KG. RESPECTIVELY. KUREHA CLAIMED THAT ITS PRODUCTS
ACCOUNT FOR 70 TO 80 PERCENT OF PCB SUBSTITUTES CURRENTLY
IN USE FOR CAPACITORS. BROCHURES DESCRIBING KUREHA PRODUCTS
WILL BE AIRPOUCHED AS SOON AS THEY REACH EMBASSY.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

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